

CLAIMS:

1. A content item recorder (101) comprising:
storage means (109) for storing a plurality of content items;
means (115) for generating reduced reference information associated with the plurality of content items; and
means (117) for storing the reduced reference information to a back-up memory (119) separate from the storage means (109).
2. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference information comprises an information subset of a user profile associated with the plurality of content items.
3. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (115) for generating is operable to select information of the user profile for the information subset in response to a user profile detail level associated with the information.
4. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (115) for generating is operable to select information of the user profile for the information subset in response to a user profile certainty level associated with the information.
5. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 further comprising first recording means (117, 115) for recording content items to a removable medium and second recording means (117, 115) for recording the reduced reference information to the removable medium.
6. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 5 wherein the second recording means (117, 115) is operable to automatically record the reduced reference information to the removable medium in response to the first recording means (117, 115) recording a content item to the removable medium.

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7. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 6 further comprising means for determining whether a removable medium comprises recorded reduced reference information and to automatically record the reduced reference information to the removable medium if the removable medium does not comprise recorded reduced reference information.

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8. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 5 wherein the reduced reference information further comprises removable medium catalogue information.

9. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 5 wherein the removable medium
10 is a recordable Digital Versatile Disc (DVD).

10. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference information comprises identity information associated with content items currently stored in the storage means.

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11. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity information comprises a title of at least one content item.

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12. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity information comprises a broadcast time of a broadcast programme content item.

13. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity information comprises a broadcast channel identification of a broadcast programme content item.

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14. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity information comprises content item signature data of at least one content item.

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15. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference information comprises pointers to external copies of the content items of at least one of the plurality of content items.

16. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference information comprises content item access rights information.

17. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 further comprising
means (121) for entering a restore mode of operation;
means (121, 117) for retrieving the reduced reference information from the back-up memory;
5 means (121) for retrieving content items in response to the reduced reference
information from at least one external source; and
means (121) for storing the retrieved content items.

18. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 17 further comprising access
10 means for accessing a network comprising the at least one source.

19. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 18 wherein the network is a peer-
to-peer network.

15 20. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the content item
recorder is a Personal Video Recorder (PVR).

21. A method of operation for a content item recorder (101) having storage means
(109) for storing a plurality of content items, the method comprising the steps of:
20 generating reduced reference information associated with the plurality of
content items; and
storing the reduced reference information to a back-up memory separate from
the storage means.

25 22. A method of operation for a content item recorder as claimed in claim 21
further comprising the steps of:
entering a restore mode of operation;
retrieving the reduced reference information from the back-up memory;
30 retrieving content items in response to the reduced reference information from
at least one external source; and
storing the retrieved content items.

23. A computer program enabling the carrying out of a method according to claim
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24. A record carrier comprising a computer program as claimed in claim 23.